What's in a Name?

A proposal to Establish a Standard Naming and Symbology Convention for CSS Units

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The Name & Symbol Conundrum

Names

CSSD

DSC

CSSG

FSSG Forward

BSSG

GSG

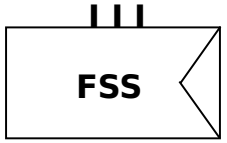
MCSSD

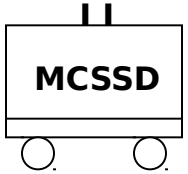
MSSG

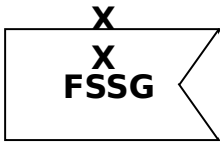
FSSG

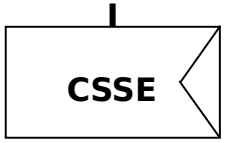
DSG

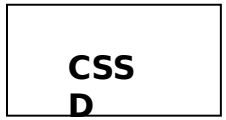
Symbols











What is the Problem?

- Current name usage inconsistent with doctrine and other MAGTF elements
- Names provide little indication of a unit's relative size
- Lack standardization
- Having to always explain why the CSSE needs to be different (when it really doesn't)

What is a Group?

Joint Pub 1-02:

- A flexible administrative and tactical unit composed of either two or more battalions or two or more squadrons. The term also applies to combat support and combat service support units.
- A number of ships and/or aircraft, normally a subdivision of a force, assigned for a specific purpose.

Are the FSSG, BSSG, and MSSG really groups?

What is a Detachment?

Joint Pub 1-02:

- A part of a unit separated from its main organization for duty elsewhere.
- A temporary military or naval unit formed from other units or parts of units.

TM 101-5-1/MCRP 5-2A:

- Unit equivalent in size to a platoon

Should a CSS unit be called a detachment?

Tell Me Again What a CSSD IS?

- What most people think/see:

CSSD-11
- CSSD-10
  - MCSSD-55
- Det, H&S Bn
  - Det, 7th ESB
- etc.

- What it really is/means:

CSSD-11
- CSSD-10
  -- Det, H&S Bn
  -- etc.
- MCSSD-55
  -- Det, H&S Bn
  -- etc.
- Det, 7th ESB
  -- Co A (Rein), 7th ESB
    --- Co A, 7th ESB
    --- Det, H&S Co, 7th ESB
    --- Det, Engr Spt Co, 7th ESB

Standard Unit Size Indicators*

Size	Meaning
XX	Division
I I I	Regiment/Group
I I	Battalion/Squadron
I	Company/Battery/Troop
● ● ●	Platoon/Detachment

These work well for the GCE, ACE, and MHG so why not for the CSSE?

*TM 101-5-1/MCRP 5-2A “Operational Terms and Graphics”

Standard Naming Convention Options

	COA 1	COA 2	COA 3
Regiment/Group	CSSG-x	CSSG-xx	CSSG-xx
Battalion/Squadron	CSSD-xx	CSSB-xx	CSSD-xx
Company/Battery	CSSD-xxx	CSSC-xxx	CSSC-xxx

Key: G=Group; D=Detachment; B=Battalion; C=Company

MAGTF	COA 1	COA 2	COA 3
MEF	FSSG	FSSC	FSSC
MEB	BSSG	BSSG	BSSG
MEU	MSSG	MSSB	MSSD

Key: G=Group; D=Detachment; B=Battalion; C=Command

Standardization is Long Overdue

- Unit names grounded in doctrine, tradition, and common sense
- Easily understandable by Marines (and joint/other services)
- Will greatly facilitate deliberate and crisis action planning
- Provides an organizational basis (along with notional warfighting templates) for equipment fielding decisions

Recommendation

Adopt a CSS unit naming convention/hierarchy consisting of:

- Force Service Support Command (FSSC)
- Combat/Brigade Service Support Group (CSSG/BSSG)
- Combat/MEU Service Support Battalion (CSSB/MSSB)
- Combat Service Support Company (CSSC)